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Golden Gate Audubon Society

THE GULL

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THE RAIN FOREST

The massive and continuing destruction of rain forests in tropical areas is a major concern. (Where do you think many of "our" birds winter?)

Cathy Pringle, a visiting scholar at UCB from the University of Michigan is actively involved with the Organization of Tropical Studies in Costa Rica, SA. She has organized and led scientific exploration in the altitudinal transect between La Selva lowland rain forest reserve and the mountainous Braulio Carrillo National Park.

Over 250 species of birds were observed, 55 herbs were collected, insects galore, botanists discovered 28 species of plants previously undescribed to science, mammals abound.

Come join Cathy as she gives a slide-illustrated presentation of this two-week expedition to the beautiful verdant waterfall filled "Zona" which the OTS is raising funds to protect. The meeting will be held in Berkeley Thursday, April 11 at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, at 7:30 p.m.

THE MAY MEETING

The Conservation Committee will be in charge of the May Meeting. Details will be in the next issue of the Gull.

WINE-TASTING AGAIN

Mark your calendars for the Wine and Cheese Tasting on June 2. See you at the Lyford House at Richardson Bay Audubon Center.

— LEON ABRAMS, Program Committee

CELEBRATE AUDUBON'S 200th BIRTHDAY, APRIL 26

This year, on April 26, we celebrate the bicentennial of John James Audubon's birth. Through his art, Audubon created a public awareness of the birds and mammals of North America. That art was eventually to inspire our early conservationists and led to the formation of the National Audubon Society.

In keeping with the Audubon tradition, Golden Gate Audubon Society continues to use education and field experiences as primary means of fostering conservation. April is traditionally one of our most active months and certainly one of the best times of year to explore the natural world. Celebrate Audubon's birthday and participate in at least one GGAS sponsored activity:

- Go on one of our many field trips;
- Attend our monthly meeting;
- Visit Audubon Canyon Ranch, our sanctuary on Bolinas Lagoon;
- Adopt-a-Class by subscribing to the "Audubon Adventures" program through our office;
- Invite a friend to join you in your Audubon activity.
- Purchase a fabulous new Golden Gate Audubon T-shirt.

As a special service to the general public, GGAS will sponsor a number of field trips specially for non-members on the weekend of April 27 & 28. These short trips will be designed to introduce new people to your Audubon Society. Encourage your friends to join us. Groups will be limited to about 20 participants. Details will be posted in the entertainment sections of local newspapers, and the free registration will be made through the Golden Gate Audubon Society office (843-2222).

Take the first step to make your Audubon membership meaningful. Celebrate Audubon's Birthday—join an Audubon activity this month.

— DAN MURPHY

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 16-21 is set for the 1985 Biennial Convention of the National Audubon Society. This year it will be held in the Adirondacks in New York at Silver Bay on Lake George. The Audubon magazine for February included registration information for members interested.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday, April 6—Bothe-Napa State Park. See March Gull for details.

Saturday, April 6 — Alameda and San Leandro Shoreline. Meet at 10 a.m. in Alameda, at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary and the San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline. Toward the end of the day we will look for Burrowing Owls on Bay Farm Island. Be sure to bring lunch and liquids. We should see migrating shorebirds, many in breeding plumage. Bring a scope if you have one. Leader Leora Feeney. (522-8525). (✓)

Sunday, April 7 — Easter Walk in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. See March Gull for details.

Wednesday, April 10 — Mini-trip to Audubon Canyon Ranch. Meet at 9:30 in the parking lot at Audubon Canyon Ranch. The turnoff to the Ranch is three miles north of the town of Stinson Beach along Bolinas Lagoon. Bring lunch and binoculars. We will observe nesting Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8332).

Sunday, April 14 — Beginners' Trip to Five Brooks, Bolinas Lagoon and Audubon Canyon Ranch. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Five Brooks parking lot (about three miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). We will look for early spring migrants near the pond, then caravan to Audubon Canyon Ranch with stops along Bolinas Lagoon. Bring your lunch and we will picnic at the Ranch (\$1 contribution). After lunch we'll walk up to the overlook to see the nesting herons and egrets. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.

Leader: Gloria Markowitz (892-2910).
(✓)

Saturday, April 20 — Mines Road Livermore. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Nob Hill Shopping Center at S. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there we will drive on mountain roads to Patterson. Bring food and liquids. We can expect to see Northern Orioles, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and Phainopeplas in this habitat. Roadrunners and wild Turkeys have also been seen on this trip. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). (✓)

Sunday, April 21 — Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Rock City parking area. From Oakland go east on I-580, then north on I-680 to Danville and follow the signs east on Diablo Rd. to the park. Consult your map for alternate routes. The first available parking is at Rock City, about one mile inside the south entrance station gate. Bring lunch and liquids. We will look for spring birds and wildflowers. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (✓)

Saturday, April 27 — Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at the north entrance to Briones Park at the end of Briones Road. Take I-80 to Hwy. 4. Turn east on 4 (follow signs to Stockton and Martinez). Exit at Alhambra Avenue which is located approximately 8½ miles beyond the junction of I-80 and Hwy. 4. Turn right onto Alhambra Ave. This road forks after about 0.4 mile. Take the right fork (Alhambra Valley Rd.) for 1½ mile to a T intersection. Turn right. At about 150 yards turn left onto Briones Road. We will meet at the gate at the end of this road.. Be prepared to carry lunch for a six mile hike. The terrain is hilly. We should see many of the common breeding birds of the interior areas of the East Bay. Leader: Pete White (229-1714). (✓)

Sunday, April 28 — Bodega Bay for Spring Migrants. Meet at 9 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and East Shore Rd. (½ mile north of Diekmann's Bay Store. We will bird Bodega harbor, Bodega head and possibly Salmon Creek. Pack a bag lunch to eat at Conzett's "Tilt City" where land birds abound in the spring.

If you come up Saturday, lodging is available at the Best Western Motel (707-875-3525) and The Inn at the Tides (800-541-7788). There are nice campsites at the Dunes State Park just north of our meeting place. Plan to get there early to be sure of getting a spot, or call a Ticketron office to reserve one. Leaders: Kurt Campbell and Nancy Conzett (527-2593, Kensington; 707-875-2231, Bodega Bay). (✓)

Saturday, May 4 — Beginners' Trip to Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot past the Bear Valley entrance station. From Hwy. 24 take the Orinda exit to Camino Pablo and continue north for about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. (There is a sign to Briones Regional Park). Turn right and drive four miles east to the park entrance. Lunch optional. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

— FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

THE BIRTHDAY SPECIALS

You must have friends who are ready to be introduced to birding. There will be some special trips for

first-time birders in honor of Audubon's 200th Birthday. These trips will be limited to 20 persons each and reservations may be made through the GGAS Office at 843-2222. If there is sufficient interest additional trips may be arranged.

Saturday, April 27:

Golden Gate Park half-day trip led by Dan Murphy.

Tilden Park half-day trip led by Ruth Dement.

Sunday, April 28:

Alameda Shoreline 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. trip led by Paul Covel. (Bring lunch).

Golden Gate Park trip, morning to noon, led by Betty Short.

OBSERVATIONS: Through February 26

Another February continued the dry pattern.

WATERBIRDS

Although 100 Black-Vented Shearwaters were four miles off Point Pinos Feb. 3, only two could be found in Monterey waters Feb. 10 (both (SJ). Four Black-vents were off Princeton Harbor Feb. 23 (ME). Over 20 Fork-tailed Storm-petrels and two Ashy Storm-Petrels occupied Monterey Jan. 31 (SH, JH). Decreasing numbers of Fork-tails were noted near Monterey until Feb. 8, when a storm terminated the sightings (SJ). Another inshore Fork-tail was only $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the Golden Gate Bridge Feb. 3 (StW.)

Cattle Egrets remained widespread but continued their seasonal decline (mob). A "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was east of Gustine Feb. 9 (MS). Feb. 16-17 was a good weekend for discovering hybrid ducks. On Saturday a male Ring-necked Duck x Scaup swam the Lake Merritt outflow channel (JM, et al.) The next day a male Wigeon was studied at Limantour and

judged probably a Eurasian x American (JM et al.). Two male Harlequin Ducks reappeared at Ano Nuevo Reserve Feb. 5 (MP), and the male at Moss Landing remained through the month.

Bald Eagles were scattered this month. (mob).

The concentration of Mountain plovers in Panoche Valley was counted at 440 on Feb. 1 (NTC, HG, et al.). Besides the small flocks of Lesser Golden-Plovers wintering as always at Dillon Beach, Point Reyes and the San Mateo Coast, a single individual was inland at the Lodi Sewage Ponds Feb. 17 (WK). Princeton Harbor's Rock Sandpiper was still present Feb. 18 (BG). Merced National Wildlife Refuge constituted home for a Ruff Feb. 16-24 (MF, mob).

Stockton Sewage Ponds kept their Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull and Franklin's Gull through Feb. 25 (mob, DSi). Another first winter Franklin's Gull was behind Napa College Feb. 19-24 (MR, PGr, JL, RL). Among the Glaucous Gull reports the convincing ones were from Inverness Feb. 2-9 (RS, et al.), Clifton Court Forebay Feb. 12 (BR), Mountain View Forebay Feb. 14 (BB), and two individuals at Palo Alto Dump Feb. 24 (DS). One of the two Palo Alto birds was likely the one seen at nearby Mountain View. Numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes located by early February Monterey boat trips were 150-250 (SJ). Another Kittiwake visited the Berkeley shore Feb. 24 (Suw).

LANDBIRDS

A Spotted Owl at the headquarters of the Merced National Wildlife Refuge Feb. 3-26 (SF, mob) may be the first ever found on the flatlands of the Central Valley. The eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*varius*) was still at the Cheese Factory Feb. 9 (SP). Strybing Arboretum's "Red-naped"

Sapsucker (*nuchalis*) stayed at least through Feb. 8, and another was seen briefly at Sunol Regional Park Jan. 30 (JE, fide JR).

The Greater Pewee lingered at Union City through Feb. 24 (PG, et al.). The Eurasian Skylark was last seen on the Spaletta Ranch Plateau Feb. 17 (JM, et. al.), despite several searches late in the month. The latest it has been sighted in any previous winter is Feb. 21 (fide JM), so it probably began its migration during this period. Bay Farm Island's Northern Shrike was last reported Feb. 4 (AS).

At Pine Gulch Creek, the Sharp-tailed Sparrow was reported again Feb. 3 (fide BDP) and one Swamp Sparrow was still there Feb. 9 (SP.) The Swamp Sparrow at Shields Salt Marsh was present Feb. 4 (BL). The lone Lapland Longspur lingered on Spaletta Plateau at least through Feb. 24 (RS).

The Pair of Great-tailed Grackles continued to enliven San Francisco's Aquatic Park throughout the month (RS, et al.). A Rusty Blackbird was along Dickinson Ferry Road southwest of Merced Feb. 10-24 (SP, et al.). Two Northern Orioles were found Jan. 31: one heard at Fort Mason (BDP) and a "Bullock's" in Tiburon through Feb. 5 (BL).

A Cassin's Finch visited Inverness in mid-February (RS). Red Crossbills remained locally common along our coast (mob). When first noted on Feb. 3, there were four Lawrence's Goldfinches at the Vintage 1870 Shopping Center in Yountville (RSa), but four days later the flock was over 50 (MLR). This site is virtually adjacent to the Napa River Ecological Preserve, where numbers of Lawrence's Goldfinches were present all last fall.

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Laurence C. Binford, Bill Bousman, Nancy

T. Conzett, Jim Edgar, Michael Ellis, Marc Fenner, Shawneen Finnegan, Peter H. Gleick, Brad Goodhart, Phil Gordon (PG), Helen Green, Peggy Gross (PGr), Jay Harrison, Syd Harrison, Shearwater Journeys, Woody Kuehn, Bill Lenarz, Robin Leong, John Lovio, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Harriet Huber and Jay F. Penniman), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Steve Perry, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Mike Rippey, Mary Louise Rosegay, Rich Samino (RSa), Al Schmitz, Dianne Sierra (DSi), David Suddjian, Rich Stallcup (RS), Maury Stern, David Takeuchi, Steve Wilson (Stw), Summer Wilson (SuW).

— STEPHEN F. BAILEY
Observations Editor

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California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118
(phone Northern California Rare
Bird Alert 843-2211 to report
observations.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be up for reauthorization during the 99th Congress. Overall, the ESA functions well enough to warrant reauthorization without numerous major changes. There are, however, a number of interests seeking amendments that would weaken the Act for their benefit. In particular, there will be attempts to exempt western water projects from the Act.

Three years ago, the last time the ESA was up for reauthorization, we were able to emerge with an even stronger Act because Congress was convinced that the public overwhelmingly supported endangered species

protection by the federal government. Public input will again be needed to make sure the Act is reauthorized without weakening amendments. You can help by writing your Congressman and Senators, as well as the following key committees: Senate Environment and Public Works (Sen. Robert Stafford, R-VT, chairman), House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee (Morris Udall, D-AZ, chairman), and House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee (Walter Jones, D-NC, chairman).

BE COUNTED IN A POLL

As many know, wetlands are prime areas for birdlife and birdwatching. They sustain a great variety of resident and migratory birds. California has lost 90% of its original wetlands, so it's imperative that we hold the line on what remains. The Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over isolated wetlands (those not connected to a major body of water) and can protect them from developers and dredging but only if interstate commerce is involved. Currently duck hunting and fishing are considered recreational activities involving interstate commerce, birding is not. We want to persuade the Corps that birding is equally a matter of interstate commerce. Birders purchase binoculars, telescopes, camping equipment, etc. from out of state, and many of us cross state lines in pursuit of rarities or just to add to our lists, purchasing food, lodging, gasoline and other supplies.

For the Corps to recognize officially that birding fits this interstate commerce category it would need to be shown numbers of participants. Please help us by completing the following questionnaire. We will present the data gathered to the Corps.

Have you ever gone birdwatching in another state?	(n)	(y)
How many in party? (1) (2) (3) ()		
How frequently?		
Have you bought birding equipment?		
	(n)	(y)
Have you out-of-state friends or relatives who banded while in California?		
	(n)	(y)
How many in 1984?		

Please mail to:

Conservation Committee, GGAS, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

BEING EFFECTIVE IN SACRAMENTO

GGAS and other Bay Area Audubon chapters have joined the board of directors of the Planning and Conservation League (PCL). PCL is a statewide environmental lobbying organization that provides assistance to groups like ours who wish to see better environmental legislation passed.

It is hard to predict just which issues will be considered in the legislative session, but one thing is certain: unless our legislators hear from us, they will believe that we are really not all that concerned. GGAS is making a determined effort to find people who are willing, occasionally, to respond to important environmental issues.

If you are willing to join this effort, please send a postcard giving your name and address (or phone the office, 843-2222; if after hours leave a message on the answering machine). We won't ask you to write often: we'll save our efforts for the most important votes. Probably this won't happen more than three or four times a year. But at those times, constituent pressure is crucial and your letter or

phone call could make a difference.

We can't expect PCL to do everything for us in Sacramento. They will keep on top of the issues, and do their best in the day-to-day work of lobbying. But when constituent mail is needed we must be able to respond.

Some of the issues we expect to come up this year include preservation of the Bay, another attempt to build a North-South water transfer facility, attacks on the California Environmental Quality Act, toxic waste, the Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge and its pollution problems, and funding for wildlife protection. Please let us know that you are willing to spend a few minutes three or four times a year to take part in our legislative network. Without you it won't work!

— ART FEINSTEIN

HAZARDOUS WASTES

The California Dept. of Health Services has issued HAZARDOUS WASTE LAWS - A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO ENFORCEMENT, an interesting and helpful pamphlet. It explains California's efforts to enforce controls on hazardous wastes and the citizen's role in this effort. A copy may be obtained from the Office of Public Information, Toxic Substances, Dept. of Health Services, 714 P St., Sacramento, CA 95814.

NEW ON SALE AT THE OFFICE

Brighten your spring wardrobe with a GGAS t-shirt! Developed in honor of Audubon's 200th birthday, we have these handsome shirts in sizes x-small through x-large. Navy blue, emblazoned with Nancy Conzett's gull logo, they are striking. \$8.00, inclusive of sales tax.

The Sequoia Audubon publication SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA BIRD-WATCHING (\$9.50) is in stock at the GGAS office. It is a very useful guide to birding the area covered. It was produced with assistance from GGAS members Dan Murphy, Alan Hopkins, Mary Louise Rosegay and with maps by Nancy Conzett.

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

Two of the most spectacular sights of flocking birds that I have seen occurred in the desert area near Indio, due to the proximity of the Salton Sea. Against the vivid blue sky, an enormous group of dazzling white gulls wheeled about, so high that their voices could not be heard, lending a mystical quality to the experience. Unlike the organized procession of a flock of geese, the group seemed liquid as they surged and flowed silently overhead.

Accustomed to seeing pelicans flying in formation at the ocean, I was curious to see a different flock formation over the desert. There was no identifiable leader as the group sloppily changed position constantly. They only seemed to share a common purpose in direction.

There are definite dynamics involved in flocking behavior. Cohesion is fundamental to a flock. This is improved through communication in some types of flocks. Geese keep up a constant chatter during migration, for example.

There is an action called "following" which occurs when one or a few birds change one activity for another, closely followed by the entire group (e.g. stop feeding and begin drinking).

"Schooling" movements, those sharp split-second turns executed in perfect harmony by flocks of sandpipers, may be controlled by the central nervous system rather than being a

very precise form of following. In this type of flight, leadership changes constantly, making the whole action all the more phenomenal.

Spacing is an important element in flock dynamics. Each bird has its own individual territory which it protects. Notice birds perched, evenly spaced, on a high wire or shorebirds working a mud flat. Birds on the outer edges of a flock may wander a bit but they quickly close ranks when they notice distance is too great. Except for aggressive encounters or for heat conservation, birds rarely have any physical contact with other flock members.

There are different reasons for flocking, the most obvious being migration. Usually birds prefer to migrate with their own species, occasionally allowing closely-related species to join them. By flying in a group, navigational accuracy is improved. Young birds benefit from travelling with experienced adults.

Foraging types of birds, such as blackbirds, band together to feed. They have a system of "leapfrogging" across fields, the birds at the rear passing over the front rank when they have gleaned their area. During this activity they are nearly silent. The noisier types (finches, waxwings, e.g.) arrive at a feeding site en masse but feed individually without any group dynamics. Seabirds tend to congregate to take advantage of schools of fish, some species (American White Pelican and Double-crested Cormorant) cooperate in "fish drives."

Many species flock, since there are advantages to this behavior, but some birds (Merlin and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, e.g.) persist in a solitary existence. Others flock only at certain times in their lives, such as when migrating. There is some truth to the old adage "birds of a feather flock together."

— MEG PAULETICH

FREMONT ADULT SCHOOL

This spring the Fremont Adult school is offering a series of weekly classes called "Birding Field Trips" taught by Alice Hoch, Field Trips Chairman of Ohlone Audubon Society. Each week a different birding spot will be visited by the class. Carpools can be arranged. The class will meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 until 12:30 starting April 23 and ending May 28. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. April 23 in the conference room of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Rd., Fremont. Bring binoculars and be prepared to bird-watch that morning.

For information phone 791-5841 or the instructor at 657-0475.

ALICE HOCH AT MINES RD.

On Saturday, April 13, the Fremont Adult School will offer a bird trip along Mines Rd., Livermore. In addition to wildflowers, there are interesting birds: Phainopepla, turkey, Lazuli Bunting, Lewis Woodpecker, Golden Eagle, California Thrasher, bluebird, oriole, flycatchers, wrens, hawks, and hummingbirds. Last year some participants were lucky enough to have good views of a Roadrunner.

The trip will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students should bring binoculars, snacks, lunch, and beverages. Also, if possible, field guides and scopes. Students are responsible for transportation, but carpools can be arranged. The cost is \$10.50 and students must pre-register by mail or in person at the Fremont Adult School. For a confirmation, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

PIEDMONT BIRD CLASS

Dr. Michael Perrone will again offer a birding class through Piedmont A-

dult School. The course, sponsored by GGAS, will focus on identification of local landbirds by their behavior, habitat, appearance and voice. It includes six evening classroom lectures, illustrated with color slides, and several Saturday morning bird walks. Emphasis during walks will be on recognition of the calls and songs of all those feathered creatures hidden in the foliage. Bring a bird guide to class, preferably the National Geographic Society guide (available at the GGAS office) or the Golden guide by Robins, et al. Field trip details will be announced in class.

For information, call Piedmont Adult School, 653-9454 or 658-3679, day or night. The class starts Wednesday, March 27 and ends Saturday, May 5. It will meet at Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia Ave.

THE COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

Naturalists will conduct four two-day classes, each meeting one evening and one weekend day, and two quarter-long classes studying the wonderlands of Northern California.

Short Outdoor Classes

The short courses will meet one evening from 7 to 10 p.m., followed by a Saturday excursion, they will be:

"The Chaparral - Elfin Forests of the Coastal Mountains" Thursday, Apr. 18 and Saturday, Apr. 20.

"San Francisco Bay - Mudflats and Salt Marshes" Thursday, Apr. 25 and Saturday, Apr. 27.

"Monterey Bay Aquarium and Pt. Lobos" Tuesday May 7 and Saturday May 11.

"Point Reyes Coastal Ecology" Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18.

Quarter-Long Classes

John Luther will teach a quarter-long "field biology of California" from 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday evenings beginning April 2, with a one-day field trip to the Central Valley and a three-day field trip to the Sierra Nevada and Mono Lake.

Tom Southworth will teach a quarter-long "Underwater Marine Biology" from 7 to 10 p.m., Thursday evenings beginning April 4, with four underwater explorations. Students may attend lectures only. Divers must be certified scuba divers.

Enrollment will be limited. Register at the College, 555 Atlantic Ave., Alameda; for information phone 522-7221, exts. 271, 197, or 378.

ALAMEDA SPRING BIRDWALKS

Spring birdwalks begin in Alameda Tuesday, April 9, at 9:30 a.m. in Lincoln Park Center, High St. and Santa Clara Ave. Sponsored by the Alameda Park and Recreation Dept., the two-hour walks are led by Patricia Boese, past-president, GGAS. Habitats visited include open field, tidal marsh, sandy beach and rocky shore. Fee for the five sessions is \$20. For information phone 522-4100, ext. 277 or 339-8374.

WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL

The California premier of the International Wildlife Film Festival, featuring the award winning films of 1985 will be held on Saturday, April 20 at the New Varsity Theater in Palo Alto

Held in April each year in Missoula, Montana, this competition is "The Cannes" of its genre, attracting many of the world's top animal films. The films may be scientific, aesthetic, and/or political, but all those chosen

as winners in their categories are beautifully photographed., accurately told, and offer provoking insights and spectacular events.

The winners from the 1985 Festival, chosen just two weeks prior, will be shown from 2-5 p.m. at the Varsity Theater, 456 University Ave, Palo Alto. A tax-deductible donation of \$5, \$2.50 for children under twelve, will benefit the Peninsula Conservation Center. For information and for advance ticket sales call Deborah Jamison, 328-5313.

COOPER SOCIETY

At the next monthly meeting, on Monday, April 1, Stephen Laymon will present a talk entitled "Spotted owls in the Central Sierra: calling response, habitat and migrational movements." Steve, a Ph. D. candidate at UC Berkeley's Dept. of Forestry, has studied these owls for five years in several locations. He has a wealth of information to share with us.

The seminar will be held in Room 2503, Life Sciences Bldg., UCB, at 8 p.m. and will be preceded at 7:45 by a brief business meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society, which will include election of next year's officers. Everyone interested in birds is welcome.

REDWOOD CHECKLIST a review

In recent years a virtual explosion of annotated regional bird checklists has been published. Although most of these are very welcome, some are of distinctly lower quality, especially in terms of detail or accuracy. The New CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK must

be highly recommended to anyone interested in the northwest corner of California. It covers not only Redwood National Park but also the entire coastal strip from the Oregon border south to Trinidad Head and out 50 miles into the ocean. The checklist's data are obviously the most authoritative possible, with meticulous attention to detail and clear presentation. This should not surprise anyone familiar with the checklist's authors, Richard A. Erickson, Gary S. Lester and Gary J. Strachan, the area's leading birders.

This multiple-fold-out checklist treats all 361 species in the familiar forms of seasonal abundance bar graphs with codes for habitats used and nesting status. It doubles as a current list for Del Norte County, since only four additional species occur in that county's interior and the authors list these separately. Virginia Brubaker has graced this work with eleven ink drawings that are rather more appealing than accurate.

The retail price is \$.56 (plus postage?) from Coastal Parks Association, Redwood National Park, 1111 Second St., Crescent City, CA 95531.

For a wider geographical perspective on northwestern California, the 1975 BIRDS OF NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA by C. F. Yokum and S. W. Harris is still useful although outdated for rarities. At least formerly its price was \$3.50 from the Humboldt State University Bookstore, Arcata.

— STEPHEN F. BAILEY

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

At the Audubon Canyon Ranch Preserve in Sonoma Valley, Bouverie Audubon Preserve, changes are under way. The great hay barn is to be remodeled into an ecological center. Plans have been prepared by archi-

tects David Bouverie and Clifford Conly and will include a cruciform meeting hall with a stage for live and filmed performances, an office, library and conference room, a kitchen and laboratory and the usual other facilities. Large wood-burning stoves will provide the heat.

In the meantime the ongoing docent education program continues. It is housed in the Bouverie Hexagon House on the preserve which also temporarily houses the library.

John Peterson, a graduate student from Sonoma State and a specialist in avian activities, has joined BAP as a Bouverie Fellow.

In Volunteer Canyon at the Bolinas Preserve Ray Peterson continues to offer classes:

April 13/14 Spring Wildflowers
April 20/21 The Photo Set-up
April 27/28 Water Bears and Tiger Beetles

May 4/5 Birds of ACR
May 11 First Annual Down Hill Hike
May 18 Moon Spring
May 18/19 Herbal Brews and Garden Concoctions

April hosts at the Ranch will be from Marin Audubon Society.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS

DEATH VALLEY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND May 24-27, 1985

Leader: Chris Carpenter. Price \$175.

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA July 20-29 1985

Leaders: Joe Morlan and Garth Alton. Price \$945.

SAN DIEGO PELAGIC Sept. 6-9, 1985

Leaders: Brad Goodhart and Chris Carpenter. Price \$240.

KENYA Oct. 9-23, 1985

Leader Chris Carpenter. Price \$3075.

SOUTHERN MEXICO Nov. 16-Dec. 1, 1985

Leaders: Chris Carpenter and Lina Prairie. Price \$2095.

EDITOR'S NOTE

According to Murphy's Law, as we all know that if something can go wrong it will. In the production of issue 2 of volume 67 of the GULL the printer consulted issue 3 of volume 66 for format for the Christmas Count data. Then the pagination was begun with the next number after March 1984 rather than February 1985. It results in a gap of 36 pages between 16 and 53 in the present volume. It is regretted by all concerned.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For GGAS

Gift of

Anonymous

In Memory of
Maurice Kamins, Sr.

office of Mental Health
Social Services in
San Francisco

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

— SECOND CLASS MATTER



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

1550 Shattuck Avenue #204

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THE GULL

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.